

400 Per Cent Profit Made on Electric Bulbs

Prices Set Far Above Cost of Manufacture by Order of General Electric Co., Says Lockwood Witness

Production Kept Down

Independent Firm Harassed. Committee Hears: Phone Overcharges To Be Probed

The manner in which the General Electric Company maintains its alleged control over the electric light bulb business and how this resulted in boosting the price of the lamps to the public was again the subject of inquiry before the Lockwood Committee on Housing yesterday.

Augustus E. Wiest, head of the Crystalite Manufacturing Company, testified that by limiting the quota of lights which concerned operating under licenses of the General Electric Company could manufacture, the production of the bulbs was kept down. As a result of this restriction, he said, there were not sufficient lamps in the five-year period between 1915 and 1920 to supply the demand. This tended to hold up prices, he testified.

Profits Made on Lamps

Thomas Spina, manager of the Continental Lamp Company, 532 West Twenty-second Street, said that the list price at which the General Electric compels dealers to sell its lights was from 200 to 400 per cent above the cost at which independent concerns could manufacture the product. He cited an instance of a bulb costing 10 cents to make being sold to the consumer for \$1.60.

Louis C. Kable, manager of the Crystalite Manufacturing Company, insisted that despite the ruling of the Federal courts prohibiting the General Electric Company from fixing resale prices, the company was still dictating both the prices and discounts to jobbers through a scheme of consigning.

There were intimations by the committee counsel that the committee may take up the question of the installation of telephone slot machines in apartment and tenement houses to prevent alleged overcharging. Samuel Untermyer, chief counsel to the committee, said that he had presented the matter for consideration of the Public Service Commission.

Thomas A. McWhinney, acting chairman of the committee, remarked: "Unquestionably the Legislature will extend the life and power of our committee, and if the Public Service Commission doesn't take up this matter, under the powers of our resolution we will make an inquiry into the telephone situation."

Wiest said his principal occupation

at the present time was "litigation with the General Electric Company."

He said he was associated with the American Appliance Company when, in February, 1920, the electric company notified them they were infringing upon the latter company's patent. Radin, then become involved in a costly suit, he said, the concern, doing a business of \$1,000,000 a year, greatly curtailed its business.

Forced to Curtail Business

The United Lamp Manufacturers Corporation, said Wiest, was organized by the independents to act as a selling agency for them. The organization had scarcely begun to function, Wiest testified, when the General Electric started injunction proceedings which now are pending in the courts.

Spina said that the standard bulb, the one most commonly used for home illumination, was made by the independent manufacturers for about 16 cents and sold to retailers, according to the General Electric price list, for 40 cents. He said the independents allowed jobbers discounts of 50 to 60 per cent on the General Electric's price list.

A 50-watt lamp, costing 23 cents to make, said Spina, was in the General Electric's price list as 60 cents to the consumer. Another lamp which cost 21 cents, went to the consumer for 70 cents. Still another that cost the maker 28 cents, went to the public, according to the General Electric price list, for \$1, while another that cost 32 cents was sold for \$1.40. Another type that cost 40 cents, sold for \$1.50 in the General Electric catalogue.

Professor Samuel M. Lindsay, a professor of political science in Columbia University, Victor M. Earle, a real estate operator, Charles E. Edwards, president of the Real Estate Board of New York, and William D. Kilpatrick, another real estate operator, were called to the stand to be questioned regarding their published reflections on the fairness of the committee's hearings.

Professor Lindsay admitted that he had been given free opportunity to say what he had to say, as did also Mr. Earle. An attempt of both these men to read into the record statements "argument" rather than evidence" was not allowed by the committee.

Kilpatrick asserted there was a large surplus of apartments here in 1919, despite the figures that had been presented by the various city officials indicating a great shortage.

The hearings will be resumed at 10:30 o'clock this morning.

Building Union Calls Untermyer Plan Best

The Federal Reserve Bank, the State Chamber of Commerce and twenty large banking, commercial, civic and similar organizations interested in

bringing relief to the housing situation through a settlement of the difficulties of the Building Trades Employers' Association were informed yesterday by the union organization that the best opening for a settlement is offered by the arbitration plan submitted to both sides by Samuel Untermyer, chief counsel of the Lockwood committee.

This plan has been accepted already by the unions, but is still under consideration by the employers, who want arbitration on a plan of their own.

The union letter, which is being sent to one sent on behalf of the various organizations by Robert D. Kohn, of the New York chapter of the American Institute of Architects, reads as follows:

"Your courteous letter of January 3, came duly to hand. We appreciate the interest your body shows by the expressed desire to obtain the viewpoint of the council on the present situation in the building industry of this city. A meeting with your committee, however, does not seem necessary because, fortunately, we are in a position to state to you in this letter exactly the opinion of the building trades workers, making up the membership of the Building Trades Council."

"On December 23, Mr. Samuel Untermyer proposed to the Building Trades Employers' Association and to the Building Trades Council a plan for the settlement of the dispute between them. A copy of it is herewith enclosed. The council unanimously accepted this and its action has been ratified by the constituent unions. We have since urged the employers to take similar action. But up to this time we have received no notification of what they have decided to do. We fully understand the great need of a speedy and just settlement."

"In our way of looking at it the plan of Mr. Untermyer provides the only way to bring this about and also to insure peace and stability for a long time to come, and we believe it ought to meet with the approval of all parties concerned, including the public, and we hope that you will add your support."

School for War Memorial Greenwich to Expend \$900,000 on New Building

GREENWICH, Conn., Jan. 10.—A new high school building to cost \$900,000 is to be erected here in memory of World War veterans, according to announcement made to-night by Julian W. Curtis of the Town School Committee Society.

William S. Meany, owner of the site selected, which is valued at \$100,000, said he was willing to dispose of it for \$75,000 in view of the memorial project.

Referring to overcrowding in schools here, Mr. Curtis said the present high school building accommodated only 250 pupils, but 550 were enrolled, with 100 more to enter next month. The new building would accommodate 1,000 students, with an auditorium seating 1,200 and a large gymnasium.

The building would be a memorial to the war veterans, and would be a landmark in the town.

Milk Strikers Vote Expulsion Of Union Heads

1,800 Denounce Briggs and His 'Puppet Officers' for Causing Walk-Out That Was Bound To Be Failure

To Ask for Their Old Jobs

Recall Bitterly Copeland's Advice to Go Fishing and Let Hylan Fix Them Up

The climax of the long-drawn out milk workers' strike was enacted yesterday, when 1,800 of the 5,500 men remaining out crowded into the Star Casino, at 107th Street and Park Avenue, and voted to expel from office the union officials they declared had misled them into embarking on the walkout. All present members of Local 583, the largest New York local of the Milk Drivers' Union.

They adopted a resolution directed against their leaders in which they declared that "our interests have been jeopardized and our affairs mismanaged under the arbitrary rule of George W. Briggs and his puppet officers," and indicated they would ask the milk distributing companies to take them back to work on the best terms obtainable.

As to this, it was said by one of the distributors, who now are conducting operations under the open shop, that about 95 per cent of the jobs have been filled permanently since the strike began, but that "some of the strikers concerned might be taken on to fill the present and future vacancies."

May Go to Court

Today a committee of the strikers will call at the union headquarters at 316 West Forty-second Street and demand that the o.e. records and the keys be turned over to them. In the event that the union heads regard this demand as humiliating from a mere "insurgent movement," as is possible, and refuse to comply with the demand, it is planned to take the matter to the courts.

The strikers at the meeting elected a temporary organization, with James Barnes as chairman pro tem. New officers will be elected later.

Every statement was made by speakers.

"The milk wagon drivers realize they have been duped," said one member of the union. "All they want is to get their old jobs back. Had they known what was in the telegram sent to Briggs by Daniel J. Tobin, head of the general executive board of the union, on the eve of the strike, in which counsel against a strike was given, there would have been no strike."

"Out of all our members there are 5,500 still on strike. Many have been out of work for eleven weeks. They intend to go back to work if they can and believe that when the facts are known the milk company officials will realize that the men were the victims of their union officials."

It was recalled that when the strike began just before the municipal election the strikers received counsel from Health Commissioner Copeland at a Madison Square Garden mass meeting to "go fishing and leave it to Mayor Hylan to settle the strike."

"Well, we've been fishing a long time," was the comment of one striker last night, "but all we've proved is that there are as many suckers in fishing smacks as there are in the sea."

Governor Won't Grant Respite in Persons Case

Asserts Man Doomed to Die To-morrow Had Ample Time for Court Action

ALBANY, Jan. 10.—Governor Miller said today that he had declined to grant a respite to Edward Persons, sentenced to die in the electric chair at Sing Sing Thursday night for murder committed in Chautauque County. Supreme Court Justice Sears yesterday granted an order to show cause on a motion for a new trial.

Persons' attorney, Thomas G. Barnes, applied to the Governor to grant a respite.

"I told him," the Governor said, "that in my judgment there was ample time for anything involved in the case to be passed upon by any judge before the time set for the execution, and there has been ample time since the decision of the Court of Appeals, and that I was not granting a respite. In these cases I am not contributing any more to the unnecessary delays in the administration of criminal law, because I think promptly and certainly are two very important things to secure, if possible, in the administration of criminal law which may tend to some extent to reduce the rather alarming increase in crime."

Samuels submitted an affidavit by Dr. Stephen Perham Jewett, an alienist attached to the Bellevue Hospital staff, who said that Mrs. Samuels presents a typical case of "constitutional psychic inferiority" verging on an attack of insanity, and that if she were to become a mother she "would probably become insane."

Mrs. Samuels applied for alimony pending trial of the action and for counsel fees to enable her to make a defense. Justice Burr allowed her \$10 a week and \$150 for counsel fees. The justice said that, in view of the affidavit of Dr. Jewett, the court might be justified in denying the wife's application, but, on the other hand, Mr. Samuels should support the defendant so long as she is his wife and also that Mrs. Samuels should be able to defend the action.

Fears Insanity if Wife Bears Child; Seeks Annulment

Woman's Family Is Tainted. Samuels Says, Offering Doctor's Opinion That She Has 'Psychic Inferiority'

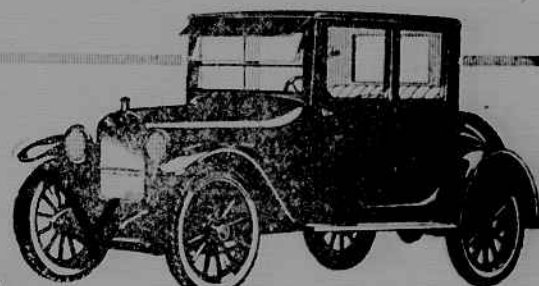
Fear that his wife, Mrs. Sadie Blackeson Samuels, of 230 East Eighth Street, would become insane should she give birth to a child, and that such offspring would suffer from the alleged hereditary taint of insanity in her family, caused Louis Samuels to bring suit in Supreme Court yesterday for an annulment of their marriage.

Mr. Samuels, who is a haberdasher, and the defendant were married last September. The husband complains that at the time he believed his bride's father was dead and that her sister, Blanche Blackeson, had a position in the West. He has since learned, he says, that both his father-in-law and his sister-in-law have been inmates of insane asylums. Mrs. Samuels makes denial of any deception practiced on her husband with regard to her father and sister, saying she told him about them before the marriage. She denies also that any taint of insanity extends to her, and declares that she is mentally and physically healthy.

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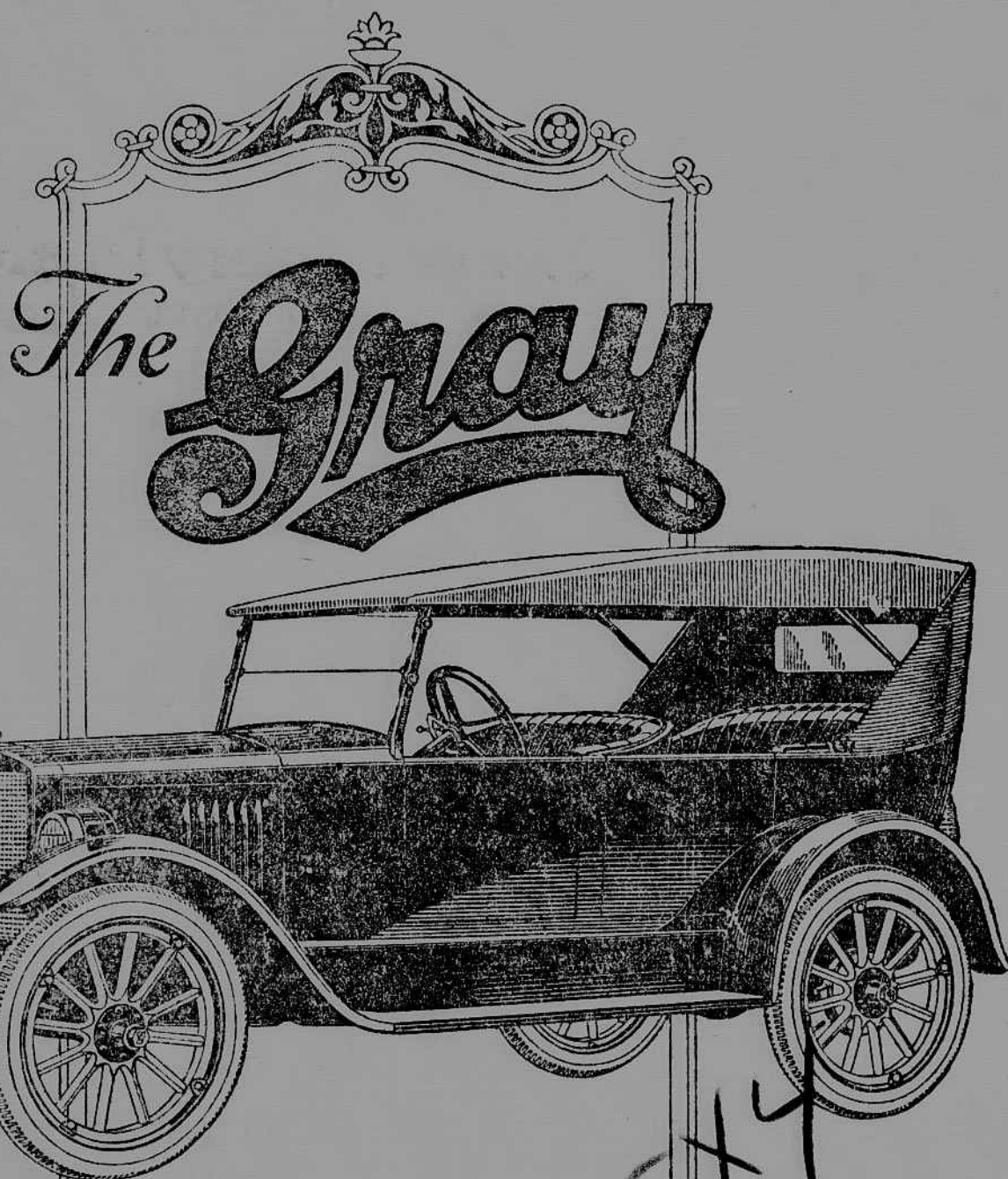
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